

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the title beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following title:

A METHOD AND A NETWORK FOR ATM SWITCHING ~~DEVICE WITH FIRST
AND SECOND CONNECTION PATHS~~

Please add the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to PCT Application PCT/DE99/00673, filed on March 11, 1999, which claims priority to German Application No. 198 10 559.2, filed March 11, 1998, now German Patent No. DE 19810559 A1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 8 as follows:

The switching equipment 1 administers the bits of information about the occupied resources of the respective connecting paths, for which it is configured as a "non-assigning exchange," in the form of a shadow table that is deposited in further storage 16. This shadow table can be particularly realized in the form of a file or in the form of a physical storage unit. This shadow table ("shadow bandwidth pool") is essentially analogously structured to the table ("bandwidth pool") deposited in the storage 4, where the table administers the connecting paths 9 - 11, for which the switching equipment 1 is configured as an "assigning exchange." This means that the momentary occupancy of the individual connecting paths 12 - ~~46~~ 15 and the virtual channels ("virtual channel," VC) momentarily allocated via these connecting paths are also

defined in this table, which is deposited in the storage 16. Each connecting path is identified in the form of an identifier ("virtual path connection identifier," VPCI), and the transmission channels that are momentarily fixed via this connecting path are specified in the form of "virtual channel identifiers, VCI" for each connecting path. Furthermore, the table deposited in the storage 16 contains how many resources are momentarily occupied by the respective connection. For example, the storage 16 contains information stating that the transmission, which is specified via the identifier VCI - C, momentarily occupies 80% of the bandwidth available via the connecting path 12 (VPCI = 12). Corresponding bits of information are kept for all other connecting paths 12 - 15, for which the switching equipment 1 is not authorized for the allocation of a transmission channel and for the occupancy of bandwidth.

Please delete the previous abstract at page 19 and add the following new abstract:

A communication network includes a second switching equipment and a first switching equipment connected to the second switching equipment by connection paths. The connection paths include a first set of connection paths and a second set of connection paths. The first switching equipment includes a first storage area for storing bits of information associated with an availability of bandwidth for the first set of connection paths, a second storage area for storing bits of information associated with an availability of bandwidth for the second set of connection paths, and a controller to determine whether a suitable connection path exists in the first set of connection paths based on the bits of information stored in the first storage area. If the suitable connection path does not exist in the first set of connection paths, the controller selects the

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second switching equipment to allocate the second transmission channel to the requested connection.